

ARLINGTON TREE COMMITTEE (ATC)
Meeting Minutes 11/14/18

Meeting Minutes -- Wednesday, November 14, 2018, Lyons Room, Town Hall

Meeting called to order at 7:40 pm

Attending: Members: Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, John Ellis, Steve Moore, Susan Stamps, Brian Turnbaugh Visitors: Leah Broder, Beth Melofchik, Keith Schnebly, Phil Tedesco.

Meeting Minutes Duty

- Susan took the minutes.

Approve October Meeting Minutes

- Approved unanimously with one amendment to change number of trees given away at Town Day to 26..

DPW Tree Dept Update (Tim Lecuivre not present, so Eliza gave his update)

- New and current town projects involving trees—Tree Warden will have public shade tree hearing 12/10/18 at DPW Grove St for 1 street tree which owner wants to have removed - 17" Norway maple at 15 Kensington – Brian will go by and take a look. Also, two private trees at the same address will be removed and replaced per the Tree Bylaw. Steve and Brian are working on bringing the tree inventory up to date with pruning and other work that has been done. Separately, GIS dept. is working on making it possible for a person reporting (on the Town website Request/Answer center) a tree at an address different than the reporter's address to have the location info transmitted to the tree inventory map, together with the info being reported about the tree.

Community Tree Canopy Program – Spring 2019?

- Interest from Mirak re: planting trees on their property on Mystic Street occupied by State Dept. of Children and Families - Eliza will talk to them in January
- Publicity start now? John will start looking for a nursery to partner with. Will plan on planting 30 trees. In planning the project, will appoint one or more members to check afterward. Guest Beth Melofchik may be willing to write promotional pieces for the Advocate. Guest Leah Broder will look into Grow bags.

Emerald Ash Borer . Members Mara Vatz, John Ellis and Mary Ellen Aronow finalized and sent a letter to Mike Rademacher (ccing Town Manager Adam Chapedelaine), asking for money in the 2020 town budget to start treatment for EAB pursuant to the 2018 Tree Management Plan approved earlier this year (which recommends \$30,000 per year for a few years).

- Belmont doing pilot treatment of ash trees at one of the schools.

Procedures for town projects and watering update (Susan)

Susan: On 9/24/18, Select Board approved ATC motions declaring town policy that all boards and depts will consult tree warden on projects involving trees and any projects involving planting trees will have two year watering plan in contract - she will follow up

with Town Manager re whether boards and depts were informed of these new policies and, if not, request he send memo to all boards, committees and depts. re same. Also, she will offer that ATC will contact/visit them to make sure they are all aware.

Also at 9/24/18 meeting, the Select Board approved new reimbursement rate of \$375 per inch of DBH for removal of Protected Trees under 2018 Bylaw amendment which changed removal fee from \$500 per tree to a per DBH fee to be set by Select Board – Susan checked the Town Website last week and the new fee is not there, also text of the Tree Bylaw has not been updated to reflect the TM vote – she contacted town counsel, he will follow up with Town Clerk/website.

Gas Leaks Task Force Report (Susan) – Susan reported that a regional coalition of towns has formed to start a dialogue on problem of gas leaks (kill trees, more greenhouse gases, etc.), organized by Mothers Mothers Out Front and HEET (Home Energy Efficiency Team), with the support of our Town Manager and other municipalities – first meeting on 10/3/18 had 40 representatives, including tree wardens, town managers and citizen activists from 14 towns, including Arlington, Somerville, Boston, Brookline, Jamaica Plain, Waltham, Watertown, Salem, Chelsea, Lincoln, Acton, Bedford, Weston and Westford. They were going to meet again on 11/8/18 to plan strategy. Also they will address possible need for Dept. of Public Utilities regulatory changes to decrease leaks and increase safety.

Set first meeting for subgroup: Tree Bylaw 2019 update (ATC members: John, Mary Ellen, Susan, Brian, also Phil T) – Mary Ellen to reach out to the subgroup with proposed meeting schedule. Subgroup to report in Dec with proposals for amendments at 2019 TM.

Publicity / Community Outreach

- We discussed the possibility of publicizing our Management Plan once it has been accepted by DCR
- Spring 2019 we could write an article about the community canopy program by reporting on the success of the 2017 trees and possibly interviewing some people who were part of this pilot effort using John MacEachearn funds

New Business

- Discussion of correspondence to ATC received since last meeting. Letter from Medford tree advocacy group inquiring about whether ATC member could come speak to their group about our inventory. John will reach out to them.
- Guests had some concerns about why many of the trees at Whittemore Park are marked with blue ribbons. Tim told John he did not know why they are marked so it is likely not to mark removal

New members – Discussion of letters of interest to join committee from Phil Tedesco and Keith Schnebly, who have attended most meetings in the last year. John moved to approve both for membership, Mary Ellen second, unanimous approval. The chairs will notify the Select Board to schedule hearing appointments.

Upcoming dates: 2nd Wednesday of the month, December 12, 2018
Adjourned 9:15 pm